

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015 @ 5:30 P.M.  
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 214 S. LOVE STREET**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gandy at 5:30 p.m.

**Present and answering roll call:** Commissioner Bengé, Commissioner Trujillo, Commissioner Butcher, Commissioner Campos and Mayor Gandy

**Also Present:** City Manager James Williams, Assistant City Manager Jared Cobb, City Attorney Patrick McMahon, Police Chief David Rodriguez, City Clerk Carol Ann Hogue, City Planner Merideth Hildreth and Administrative Assistant Anna Juarez

**Invocation:** Mayor Gandy gave the invocation

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Gandy led the pledge

**Approval of Agenda:** Mayor Gandy called for a motion. Commissioner Bengé so moved to approve the agenda with addition of Commissioners and Staff Reports and removal of non-action item of discussion of Lea County Museum Annual Report. Commissioner Trujillo seconded and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Trujillo – Yes, Commissioner Campos – Yes, Commissioner Butcher - Yes, Commissioner Bengé – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes.

**Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2015:** Mayor Gandy called for a motion. Commissioner Trujillo so moved to approve the regular minutes of June 22, 2015; Commissioner Campos seconded. Roll call was taken: Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Commissioner Campos – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Bengé – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes.

**COMMISSIONER AND STAFF REPORTS:**

- Commissioner Campos thanked the City Employees involved for the festivities of July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Mayor Gandy suggested for Commissioners to consider conducting town hall meeting for each district to discuss various activities to engage the community for more involvement in the City

**NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

**Removed – Lea County Museum Annual Report**

**Discussion of City Entry Signs:** City Manager Williams addressed Commissioners of City entry signs are showing their age; Staff is requesting input and direction for new design or any other changes. Commissioner Bengé stated it is time for new look, new message;

great opportunity to rebrand the signs. Lynnette Tate stated she does not like sign; City needs something sturdier and for sign to be able to withstand the sun and wind. Clint Laughrin stated to keep signs uniform, similar to the pool's sign. Evelyn Holguin suggested wind turbine, something like a propeller. Assistant City Manager Cobb suggested the branding is one process; entry gateway is high on the priority list. Discussion only, no action was taken.

**Discussion of City Boards and Commissions:** Commissioner Bengé stated some sort of a process to give everyone a fair chance. City Manager Williams explained the vetting process which includes a background check; application process helps serve the board as to making an informed decision on candidate and gives Staff a pool of people whom City can contact for board openings. Another option would be for the board to require candidates to submit an application, than board reviews applications and the board submits a recommendation to Commissioners. Commissioner Trujillo stated ordinance will need to be created for new process; keeping the appointments to boards the way it is works well. Commissioner Trujillo asked City Attorney McMahon if application would be public records; City Attorney McMahon responded if it is kept at regular course of business with the City, yes it would be public records; Commissioner Trujillo feels position is just an advisory board, they do not have any power; the Commissioners have the power. Commissioners discussed attendance of meeting, opportunity application process will give community members a chance, viewing various background qualifications for position, volunteers' involvement to community, and compromising with interview with Commissioners. City Planner Hildreth suggested considering citizen academy training; a training ground to discuss what the boards are and how boards function, which will help in educating the community and creating a pool of candidates for the Commission board to consider for various positions. City Manager Williams asked Commission to consider members who serve more than one board. Discussion only, no action was taken.

**Public Hearing Regarding City ADA Transition Plan:** City Manager Williams addressed Commissioners of public hearing was advertised for the public to provide comments to ADA transition plan, prior to commission adoption it needs to be approved by the FHWA (Federal Highway Works Administration).

Open Public Hearing at 5:57 p.m. to public comments: Lynnette Tate asked what is ADA? Mayor Gandy responded American Disability Act; by adopting the plan it will help with correcting the placement of fire hydrants and electrical poles that were placed on the sidewalk. The state will be required to bring up sidewalks to ADA code; fairly costly but will increase accessibility around town. Mrs. Tate stated it is a good thing and it would help with handicap people around town. Public hearing closed at 6:00 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Consider Resolution 2015-65: Approval of Lovington MainStreet Closure Permit:** Mayor Gandy called for a motion. Commissioner Campos so moved to consider

resolution 2015-65: Approval of Lovington MainStreet Closure Permit; Commissioner Butcher seconded. City Manager Williams addressed Commissioners of approving resolution will authorize the temporary closure of Love Street and Central Avenue for the Live on Love Street Summer Concert Series; the dates of closures will be on July 18 and August 22, 2015. Commission action is required for this street closure per recently adopted as Love Street is categorized as a major collector street. There being no further discussion, a roll call was taken: Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Trujillo – Yes, Commissioner Campos – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes. Motion was approved.

**Consider Appointment to the Lea County Communications Authority Advisory Board:** Mayor Gandy called for a motion. Commissioner Trujillo so moved to consider Mayor Gandy as an appointment to the Lea County Communications Authority Advisory Board; Commissioner Bengé seconded. City Manager Williams addressed Commissioners of Police Chief Rodriguez attendance to the June 25, 2015 County Commission Meeting where Geoffrey Herweg of the Lovington Police Department was not approved for City’s representation; the County Commission has requested either the Mayor or City Manager from each community be appointed. The purpose of this Committee is to ensure that municipalities in Lea County are able to have any of their questions answered MOU’s, JPA’s, and potential joining the LCCA. Commissioners discussed concerns with appointment to board, representation to LCCA board options, City representative having background and or education to LCCA, clarification of appointment to LCCA, importance of position, and County making decisions for the City. There being no further discussion, a roll call was taken: Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Campos – No, Commissioner Trujillo – No, and Mayor Gandy – Yes. Motion was approved.

**Consider Approval of Lodgers Tax Funding Requests:** Mayor Gandy called for a motion. Commissioner Trujillo so moved to consider approval of Lodgers Tax Funding Requests; Commissioner Campos seconded. City Manager Williams addressed Commissioners of approval of June 29, 2015 meeting of the Lodger’s Tax Funding heard request of 11 different projects with recommendation to increase reserve balance to \$5,000.00 to build up reserve:

<b>WildBunch Softball - Wild Bunch Tournament</b>	<b>\$ 1,975.20</b>
<b>Lovington Main Street – Live on Love Concert Series</b>	<b>\$ 2,600.58</b>
<b>Museum - Art Show Opening &amp; Exhibition</b>	<b>\$ 829.17</b>
<b>Museum - Lucky Tubbs Concert</b>	<b>\$ 1,046.14</b>
<b>Museum - Two Writers Presentation</b>	<b>\$ 575.89</b>
<b>Museum - Movie Screening</b>	<b>\$ 480.51</b>
<b>Museum - Life in NM</b>	<b>\$ 309.80</b>
<b>Museum - Movies at the Museum</b>	<b>\$ 320.49</b>
<b>Lea Community Foundation for the Arts - LCFA Brand Launch</b>	<b>\$ 1,104.79</b>
<b>Farmers Market – Downtown Farmers Market</b>	<b>\$ 302.07</b>

Lovington Main Street – Tax Free Weekend

\$ 646.03

---

**TOTAL:**

**\$ 10,190.67**

Commissioner Bengé asked if receipt, spending, margins are typical from the past; City Manager Williams stated yes. There being no further discussion, a roll call was taken: Commissioner Trujillo – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Commissioner Campos – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes. Motion was approved.

**Consider Approval of Accounts Payable:** Mayor Gandy called for a motion. Commissioner Bengé so moved to approve the accounts payable; Commissioner Butcher second. There being no further discussion, a roll call was taken: Commissioner Trujillo – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Commissioner Campos – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes. Motion was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mara Salcido stated to consider re-evaluating City boards on how they are appointed is able to make more informed decisions.

Reyna King stated not to do a background check on volunteers because it will sway people away on getting involved in the community.

Tabitha Lawson invited everyone to the concert this Saturday to listen to Bart Crow; thanked City for allowing MainStreet to close the street. Mrs. Lawson addressed issue on board appointments stating she feels candidates should be involved in the community; she completely disagreed with Commissioner Trujillo comment. Mrs. Lawson asked Commissioners to have a process to be able to vet the right candidates for each board and to create their own questions for applications; stated it is very imperative to know who is representing our City.

Sharron Little stated whomever serves on a board should attend Commission meetings; people who show interest and volunteers for various activities should be considered for boards. Mrs. Little stated for Commissioners not to be picky, whereas it is a small community with a few volunteers; some candidates have had their share of mistakes but should not be exempted from volunteering.

Janice Barry stated whether you have a record or not it should not matter to be considered for board appointments; everyone should be considered no matter what position you hold. Mrs. Barry does not have a problem Mayor Gandy being appointed to LCCA, but everything should be discussed as a group.

Chip Marks stated your background should not prevent you to coach or volunteer in the community; Mr. Marks stated he is one that was given an opportunity.

Loya Jackson stated to consider the least likely person can bring more to the table given the opportunity; people should be encouraged to come to meetings and show what they have to offer without the added pressure to fill out applications.

Clint Laughrin felt it's a totally attack to him. Mr. Laughrin stated he is trying to do the best he can do, he has attended various meetings, and is very interested in the City.

Sharon Little addressed Mayor Gandy with appointment to LCCA; asked the Mayor to pay close attention, there are a lot of issues with LCCA and not to be strong armed by LCCA.

Justin Munoz in regards to LCCA program it would be good to have Police Chief involved because Police Chief has more insight of what type of communication is needed. Mr. Munoz stated whoever does go; do get involved, have questions, have LCCA paint a good picture of what your community has and how is LCCA going to help the City. Mr. Munoz stated having good communication will help to send the correct personnel to various situations.

Commissioner Trujillo asked for prayers for Jim Harris.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SCOTTY GANDY, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CAROL ANN HOGUE, CITY CLERK**